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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Activation of Fighting Groups

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1. On 15 April 1954, a conference was held by SED factory representatives with the aim of defining the forthcoming activities of the SED. Ota Duerre, who was in the chair, said in his speech that it was the firm intention of the SED to overthrow the West Berlin Senate before the end of the year. In order to reach this aim the fight would be carried into the streets, before long. It would start with a large-scale action in West Berlin, the exact date of which was kept secret, so as not to jeopardize the success of the planned operation.
2. Since the SED was faced with difficult tasks it was necessary to put much more energy into the activation of fighting units. There was no doubt, said Duerre, that reactionary tendencies were still prevailing at SED offices, factories, and party groups. Wherever the SED would meet opposition rigid measures would be taken to crush it. So far only 30% of the SED members had enlisted for the fighting units, whereas the remaining 70% had produced thousands of arguments to prove that they were unable to join the units. In future every single argument would undergo painstaking examination.
3. [REDACTED] on 24 April Paul Graefe (SED), chairman of the Treptow town council, declared that the carbines for the fighting units were stored in the KVP barracks, and would be issued if required.

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